

Citizen Connection

Fall – Winter 2015



City of Havre de Grace • 711 Pennington Avenue • Havre de Grace, MD 21078 • 410-939-1800 • www.havredegracemd.com

A Message from Mayor Martin ~



Thank you for taking time to review this newsletter. To begin, I am happy to report to you that the City has accomplished a great many projects over the summer. Completed projects include new paving, sidewalks and gutters installed on Juniata Street at Havre de Grace Elementary School. Join me in thanking DPW Deputy Director Bill Reeder and City Inspector Melvin Mahan for overseeing this project. **It was completed on time and under projected costs.**

Space does not permit me to list all of the activity going on around town and within City Hall, but I can promise you we have been very busy! To share just a few projects...the metal structure for the Living Fence on Franklin St. has been completely installed, painted and secured. The Farmers' Market has proven to be very successful in the new location - under the tent at Hutchins Park at the foot of Congress Ave. We have "officially" broken ground on the Opera House Renovation Project - see details pg. 3. The final touches to the public park on Concord St., being thoughtfully executed with plantings, seating and walkways thanks to DPW Crew Leader John Allen and his team, may be finished by the time you receive this newsletter. Last but not least, around town you will see freshly painted curbs, new benches installed, and eye-catching recycle cans to increase the recycling effort.

As we move into the fall season, we are keeping the momentum going. One of my initiatives is to have all City buildings 100% solar-powered by 2016. By doing this, the City will convert our carbon footprint to a 100% renewable, clean and green source of energy. Not only will we be protecting our natural resources, we will be doing so while saving taxpayers \$125,000 to \$135,000 annually.

Another initiative for this year has begun. I have pulled together a group of citizens who will study the features of Tydings Park and suggest ways to further enrich this setting for all citizens and visitors alike. Your input is appreciated and encouraged. Please share any suggestions you may have with the Tydings Park Commission Chairperson, Council Member Michael Hitchings. He can be reached by email: michaelh@havredegracemd.com or (ph) 443-532-1712.

Let me end with extending my appreciation to all citizens of Havre de Grace and our City employees. The large number of events, calls for service, and beautification projects are all possible because of your sincere commitment to excellence. Together, we continue to make our City a lovely place to **live, work, play and stay.**

Sincerely,
William T. Martin, Mayor
billm@havredegracemd.com

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IMPORTANT DATES:

- Oct. 17 - Clean-up Day**
8am-3pm at Community Center 100 Lagaret Ln. there will be multiple dumpsters for residents and **Paper Shred Truck** from 8am -noon
- Oct. 30 - Halloween Parade**
6pm sign-up, 6:30 parade begins Washington Street
- Oct. 31 - Trick or Treat** 6-8pm
- Nov. 1 - Set clocks BACK** 
1 hour Standard Time Again
- Nov. 11- Veteran's Day**
Observances 11am Tydings Park
- Dec. 4 - Christmas Parade** and Tree Lighting 6pm begins on Washington St.
- Dec. 31 - New Years Eve Duck Drop & Fireworks** at the Middle School fields on Lewis Ln.

- Introducing - HAVRE DE GRACE CITY COUNCIL



Stephen J. Gamatoria, President ★
 Elected: May 2014
 E-mail: steveg@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Administrative, Budget & Finance
 Public Works



David W. Glenn ★
 re-elected: May 2014
 E-mail: davidg@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Public Safety, Administrative,
 Parks & Harbor



Randolph E. Craig
 re-elected: May 2015
 E-mail: randyc@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Public Works, Parks & Marina,
 Planning



Monica A. Worrell
 elected: May 2015
 E-mail: monicaw@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Budget & Finance, Public Safety,
 Planning



David A. Martin
 elected: May 2015
 E-mail: davidm@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Parks & Marina, Public Safety,
 Budget & Finance



Michael R. Hitchings ★
 appointed: June 2015
 E-mail: michaelh@havredegrecemd.com

Committee Assignments:
Planning, Public Works,
 Administrative

Committee Appointments

The Council President appoints Council Members to committees to help ensure City Laws and Ordinances are understood and followed. Each committee consists of no more than three Council members, one serving as **Chair**. The Mayor also appoints Council members to serve as liaison to the other various committees, commissions and advisory boards as defined by the City Charter.

- ◆ City elections are held every year in the month of May
- ◆ Every year three City Council seats are voted ★ upon
- ◆ The position of Mayor is voted upon every two years
- ◆ All elected positions are for two-year terms



Are You Registered to Vote?
 Registration forms are available at City Hall

Next Elections for City Council
TUESDAY, MAY 3, 2016 , 7am to 8pm.
ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH HALL
 located at 615 Congress Ave.

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS
7 PM - 1st & 3rd MONDAYS
 711 Pennington Ave.

Meeting Agendas available on-line at www.havredegrecemd.com

Council Meetings televised
1st and 3rd Tuesdays on
Harford Cable Network

Council Portraits: *Leo P. Heppner Photography*

Economic Development in the News !

Welcome New Businesses and New Locations to Havre de Grace!

Harbor of Grace Enhanced Recovery Center - 437 Girard St.

“A partnership of Dr. David Hill and Ken Beyer brings intensive outpatient and extended care for those seeking treatment for alcohol and drug addiction.”

Wagon Wheel Trading Company - 212 N. Washington St.

Owner Alana (Lany) Brown opened her shop May 1st. This unique shop offers many treasures for your special place.

Salon Marielle - now located at 458 Franklin St. (moved from 429 St. John St.)

Recently Opened:

Vintage Café

114 N. Washington St.

Coming Soon:

◆ **Edel’s Bridal Boutique**

315 St. John St.

◆ **Family Dollar**

1122 Revolution St.

OPERA HOUSE: Renovation Update!

Anticipated completion by: **Sept. 2016**



It’s Official - PHASE 1 of the Opera House Renovation Project has begun as **Mayor Bill Martin** lends a hand to begin the renovation!

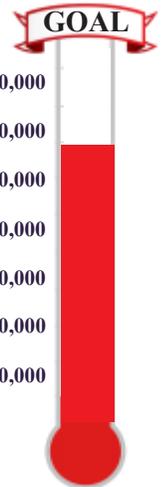
During the summer, **Lewis Contractors** were on-site to remove the interior paneling and wall partitions not original to the structure. As Phase 1 evolves, at a cost of 1.7 million dollars, the work will include re-opening of the historic staircase to the lobby area, addressing the ADA accessibility, code and life safety issues, increase seating from 130 to 200 seats, construction of an atrium joining the Opera House to the adjacent Fire Station, and installing an elevator for easier access to the 2nd floor.

Mayor Martin doing his part to start the renovation!

Right: **Bill Price** presents **Todd Starkey** of **Tidewater Players** the sign for safe keeping until the Opera House re-opens.



Above: **Mayor Bill Martin** celebrating the start of Phase I with (L-R) **CM Mike Hitchings, CM Monica Worrell, Delegate Mary Ann Lisanti, CM Steve Gamatoria, Bill Price, President of Opera House Foundation.**



The framing of the Living Fence, located on Franklin Street, is now complete.* Plantings will begin early fall and again in the spring. Once the plants take root, the result will be a lovely wall of foliage as projected below.



Special thanks to our Local Business **Shane Custom Metal Fabricators of HdG** for providing us with a quality product and service.

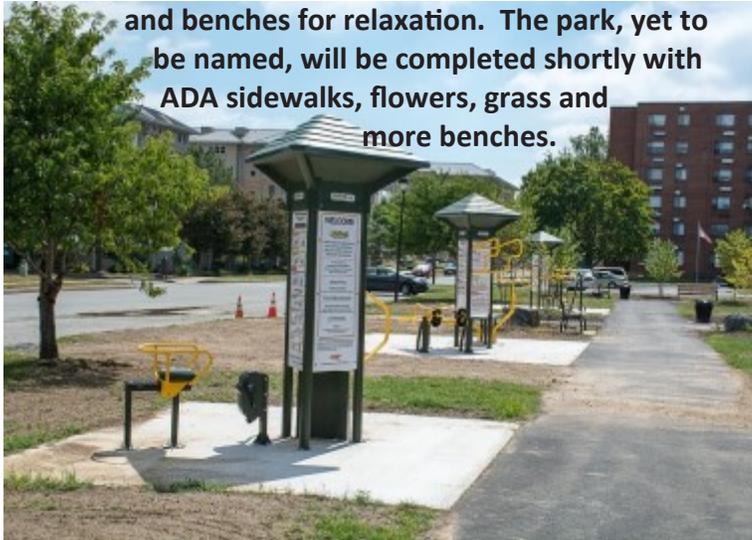
** Another fine example of Teamwork - between two City departments: **Economic Development** and **Public Works** have worked diligently to make this “idea” come to fruition!*

A Community Legacy Grant from the MD Dept. of Community Development was secured to fund this beautification project.

Department of Public *WORKS!*

Larry F. Parks, Director 410-939-1800 x 1107
larryp@havredegracemd.com

The public is invited to take advantage of this unique park located on Concord Street behind Citizens Care Center. You will find exercise stations, a walking path and benches for relaxation. The park, yet to be named, will be completed shortly with ADA sidewalks, flowers, grass and more benches.



A Round of APPLAUSE for DPW employees Ezra Berger and Joe "Jody" Weaver for bringing their artistic gifts to work every day. What was once drab is now a work of art! Check out the crosswalk on Juniata St. leading to the stadium and also these trash/recycle barrels placed around town.



Awesome work!
We are excited to see what they come up with next!

The combined effort of many people created this park. The end result is due to the work of DPW City Grounds Crew Leader John Allen and Streets Division Crew Leader John Hall along with James Sadler, Zack Patterson, Tony Cochran, Chris Brown and Mike Newsome. Also, DPW Water/Sewer Crew Leader Jay Shipley and his team: Dennis Underwood, Jim Boatman, David Morrill, Joe Robson, Jim Racine, Ricky Hickman and Larry Owen.

In the February 4, 1735 edition of the Pennsylvania Gazette, Benjamin Franklin wrote *"an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure."* This axiom still holds true today.

Take a look at these examples of problems that could have been prevented with just a small amount of attention -



Pipe bursts due to freezing temperatures.

As winter approaches, please remember to protect your pipes. Local hardware stores offer wraps to insulate the pipes. A few dollars can prevent a huge mess and costly problem to fix.



Can you guess what caused this sewer pipe to clog and break?

A combination of: "flushable" wipes, paper towels, feminine products, diapers and other items belong in the trash, not the toilet.



Grease - UGH!
Do not pour it down the drain! When it cools, it turns into a gloppy, solid mess and clogs the drains.

Department of Finance

George DeHority, Director 410-939-1800 x 1105
georged@havredegracemd.com

DEBT FEE SERVICE: Beginning in July 2015, a Debt Service Fee has been added to the water bill. The fee for most residences is \$25 per quarter. This fee was enacted because the City has experienced little development since the 2009 real estate crash and resulting recession. The City counted on average growth in users to pay for the expansion of the wastewater treatment plant. The City Council decided on a separate fee for a 2 year period, rather than an increase to the water/sewer rates. The Council is also aggressively marketing the City for new development and relocation to ensure this fee is temporary.



YOUR CITY ACCOUNTS ON-LINE
Tax, Water/Sewer, and User Benefit

You can view recent bills and pay your account on-line 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A letter was sent to each account holder identifying your individual PIN number. If you have lost your PIN number, you can contact us at www.havredegracemd.com and we can reset your PIN.

Department of Planning

W. Neal Mills, Director 410-939-1800 x 1122
nealm@havredegracemd.com

- Property Maintenance -

Home values and neighborhood quality are negatively impacted when property is not kept up.

If you notice a property that has:

- abandoned or inoperable bicycles, boats, boat trailers, mopeds or motor vehicles;
- abandoned appliances, equipment or furniture,
- junk, trash, refuse, debris, garbage, or rubbish,

please contact **Code Enforcement Officer Earl Sweigart: 410-939-1800 ext. 2104** Mon.- Fri. 7am-3:30pm.

A Seasonal REMINDER for Homeowners and Business Owners

You are responsible for removing leaves, snow and ice from the public sidewalks fronting your property.

Colleen's Corner

City Hall Permits Clerk **Colleen Critzer**
410-939-1800 x1102 or
colleenc@havredegracemd.com

A Building Permit is needed for projects such as these:

<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>PERMIT FEE</u>
Fence or Shed	\$50
Garage	\$100
Deck	\$75
Screen Room	\$75 - \$100
Addition	\$350
Pool (Above Ground)	\$50
Pool (In Ground)	\$100
Interior Renovation	\$75
Framing, Insulation	\$75 - \$200
Demolition	\$100 - \$150
Dumpster (On Street)	\$50



Are you doing home renovations or just cleaning out old junk? If you have a dumpster delivered, please be aware of this important task: **You will need to get a permit if the dumpster is placed on a City street.**

A dumpster placed in your yard or driveway does not require a permit.

Police Department

Teresa G. Walter, Chief - 410-939-2121



School Resource Officers' 3rd Annual Safety Camp ~ A popular adventure for local youth!

Two years ago the 1st Safety Camp had 39 participants. This year we had **over 100 hundred children** attend which meant we had to add another week...Certainly not a bad problem to have! **Campers learned social media/cyber safety, drug prevention, body awareness, tobacco prevention, gun safety, and water safety.** We had an overwhelming response from local businesses supporting our program and would not have been able to serve the number of children we did without their help. The SRO Unit looks forward to next year's camp! Interested parents, teens* and kids can get more information about camp by visiting the Havre de Grace SRO FaceBook page: at www.facebook.com/hdgsros *Teens - consider volunteering to help us with camp activities.

THANK YOU SRO TEAM Cpl. Petz, PFC Adams, PFC, Saul, PFC Hughes for offering this awesome camp for kids!!!



Student's Environmental Science Project ~ You Can Help! ~

High School student Megan Greene, a resident of Havre de Grace, is working on a project that could use your help. **Megan has developed a survey asking residents to answer simple questions about rain water run-off, how it may or may not affect your property, flooding issues, and your interest in receiving a rain barrel.**

The Low Impact Development Survey can be found on the City website: www.havredegracemd.com.

Megan is currently enrolled in the Environmental Science Magnet Program at N. Harford High School. She and her teacher, Mrs. O'Leary, greatly appreciate your help by taking the survey.



Please report polluters to
Storm Water Management
Coordinator JEFF KEITHLEY
410-939-2006 X-2143

Join the C.A.T. Club - Great way to meet new people while doing good work for your community!



We meet **1 hour every Saturday**
8:30am at Rochambeau Plaza
- located at corner of Washington,
St. John and Green St.

For more info:
Call **Al Peteraf**
443-742-3352

The Havre de Grace VISITORS Center... is for City Residents too!

Located at 450 Pennington Ave. behind the #2 Fire House and Opera House, the Visitor Center offers a lot of great information for residents such as:

- Harford Transit Bus schedules**
- AmTrak & MARC Penn Line train schedules**
- Event Planning Contacts** (photographers, venues, florists, caterers, lodging for guests, etc...)
- Current Events** not found in the Destination Guide
- Tickets to Local Events**
- History of HdG**
- And **GIFTS...**for ALL Occasions! We also offer the

*War of 1812
Bi-centennial
License Plate*



To order, visit the HdG Visitor Center
450 Pennington Avenue
(ph) 410-939-2100
or online at
www.explorehavredegrace.com

Complete and return form to the Visitor Center Office of Tourism - along with a **\$25.00 check** Made Payable to: MVA (Motor Vehicle Administration) **...and within 10-15 days, you'll have your new plate!**

FARMERS' MARKET ~ at Hutchin's Park located at the foot of Congress Ave.

Saturdays through October - 9am-noon





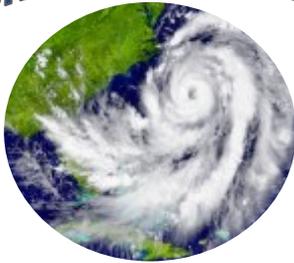
Citizen Connection

711 Pennington Avenue Havre de Grace, MD 21078

www.havredegracemd.com

410-939-1800

Storm Prep Guide Inside



Find us on
Facebook
facebook.com/havredegracemd



Citizen Connection prepared by *Laurie Dawson*
Photo Credits: *Adam Rybczynski*



A BIG THANK YOU to Local Businesses!

The Havre de Grace Police Department
wants to say **THANKS** for your help with
the 3rd Annual

Police Safety Camp for Youth

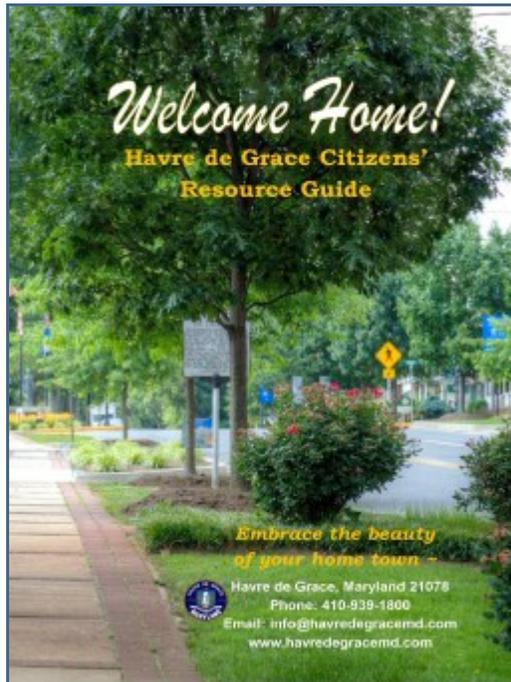
(see story pg. 6)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Beauty Nails | Herbert Brett Friedman DDS |
| Amanda's Florist | Franks Pizza |
| Bayou Inc | Promenade Grill |
| Par Excellence | Citizens Care |
| Bank of Memories | Les Petites Bisous! |
| Nick Melvin | Kona Ice |
| Kenneth Hutchinson | Big House Signs |
| Paul D Chizmar DDS | WXCX FM |
| HdG Marine Center | Coast Guard Auxiliary |
| David F Jaffe MD, PA | HCPS |
| Susquehanna OB GYN | Women's by the Bay |
| Royal Farms | Domino Sugar |
| Vincenti Decoys | Harford County- <i>Office of</i> |
| Weis Markets | <i>Drug Prevention</i> |
| Huber Company | Target (Aberdeen) |
| Java by the Bay | |
| McGregor's Restaurant | |



.. This just in! The latest edition of
Welcome Home! is here!

Get Your FREE COPY
at any of these locations:



CITY HALL

**POLICE
STATION**

**VISITOR
CENTER**

LIBRARY

**ACTIVITY
CENTER**
on Lewis Lane